

Why do people get Goose bumps?

Imagine you are in an old, deserted house. It's dark. Cobwebs brush against your face as you tiptoe up the creaking stairs. Suddenly a shrieking ghost flies towards you ...

What do you do? Scream? Run? Either option is bound to be accompanied by goose bumps!



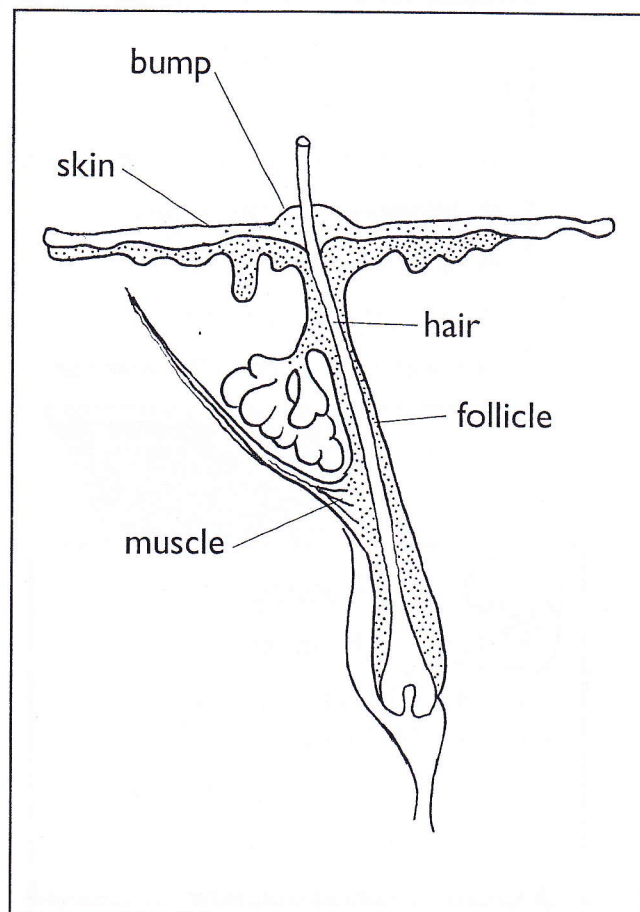
Goose bumps are the small bumps that can suddenly pop up on your skin and then go away again.

When an animal gets a fright, it causes a rush of stress. This stress makes the animal's muscles contract (tighten).

When the small muscles around a hair follicle suddenly contract, it pushes up a bit of skin. This makes a bump.

The bump in turn causes the hair to stand on end.

With all its hairs standing on end the animal looks big and scary to whatever is giving it a fright.



People used to have a lot more hair. So goose bumps are really your hair standing on end to make you look big and scary! Hopefully that ghost will get such a fright it will leave you alone.